

What is claimed is:

1. A film covered battery comprising:
 - a battery element having a positive electrode and a negative
 - 5 electrode opposing each other;
 - lead terminals connected to said positive electrode and said
 - negative electrode of said battery element, respectively;
 - a flexible casing for sealing said battery element and said lead
 - terminals together with an electrolytic solution, said lead terminals partially
 - 10 extending from said casing; and
 - a buffer formed in at least a portion of said casing for
 - accumulating a gas generated within said casing through deformation of said
 - casing, said buffer being formed continuously with a region in which said
 - battery element is accommodated.
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2. The film covered battery according to claim 1, wherein said buffer
- comprises a margin of said casing for sealing said battery element, said
- margin including inner surfaces of said casing which directly oppose each
- other without intervention of said battery element and are not joined to each
- 20 other.
3. The film covered battery according to claim 1, wherein said buffer
- is provided in at least a portion of said casing outside of said battery element.
- In an in-plane direction on a main surface of said battery element.
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4. The film covered battery according to claim 1, wherein said casing

has a recess for receiving said battery element, said buffer being positioned adjacent to said recess.

5. The film covered battery according to claim 1, wherein said buffer
5 is positioned such that said region for accommodating said battery element is not above said buffer in a posture in which said film covered battery is installed for use.

6. A battery assembly comprising:
10 a plurality of film covered batteries according to claim 1 stacked in a thickness direction of said battery element, held in a pressurized state in a direction in which said film covered batteries are stacked, and installed in a posture in which the thickness direction of said battery element is oriented substantially in the horizontal direction,
15 wherein said casing is not substantially provided with a region deformable by the pressure of a generated gas in a region at a level equal to or lower than said battery element when said battery assembly is installed.

7. The battery assembly according to claim 6, wherein each said film
20 covered batteries comprises said buffers above and below said battery element, said lower buffer being limited in deformation of said casing.

8. The battery assembly according to claim 7, further comprising a
25 casing presser member at a position corresponding to said lower buffer for pressing said casing from the outside thereof.

9. The battery assembly according to claim 7, wherein said lower buffer is folded so that said lower buffer is brought closer to said battery element.

5 10. The battery assembly according to claim 6, wherein said region of said casing deformable by a generated gas is provided only above said battery element.